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30 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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SUBJECT: FBIS INTERNET Coordination

1. As a follow-up to a joint briefing provided to the Comptroller on 11 June 1982, the Director of Communications and I have completed initial coordination on the FBIS proposal to develop a high capacity system (INTERNET) to link the FBIS field bureaus and Headquarters. The system would constitute a real-time, interactive, information exchange network using communication satellites. The FBIS proposal is included in the FY-84 program as an essential part of FBIS modernization. Our discussions have confirmed that FBIS' plans are consistent with OC's goals and plans.

2. As you know, FBIS is currently in the process of contracting a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the proposed network through use of commercial satellites. However, OC's investigations with DCA of available DSCS III satellite capacity indicate that the use of U.S. Government-owned satellites also should be explored as a possible alternative to commercially-leased satellite communications.

3. Accordingly, we recommend that:

a. FBIS pursue its study of obtaining the desired network through commercial facilities;

b. At the same time, a similar study be undertaken of DSCS III implementation;

c. On completion of the two studies, a decision be made as to the approach most advantageous to the Agency in terms of effectiveness and costs.

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4. OC would handle contracting for the DSCS III study, for which funding would have to be provided. The information developed in the separate studies will be of benefit in final system design regardless of what approach is ultimately selected.

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